

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 10-22 have been added. Thus, claims 10-22 are pending and subject to Examination.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,815,144 to Strothmann. Claims 1-4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,144 to Strothmann. Claims 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strothmann, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,730 to Nishumi et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,664,778 to Kikuchi et al. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strothmann in view of Kikuchi. Claims 1-9 have been cancelled in this application, rendering these rejections moot.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the courtesy extended by the Examiner in granting an interview to the Applicants' representative. During the interview, alternate claim language was discussed. The Examiner suggested that method claims directed to the functionality performed by the present invention might be helpful in overcoming the rejections. The Examiner further suggested that claims directed to specific karaoke or gaming devices might be helpful in overcoming the rejections.

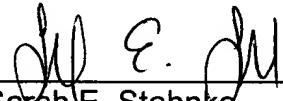
In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, new claims 10-22 have been added. These new claims highlight the specific functionality of the present invention as it relates to karaoke and gaming applications. Applicants respectfully submit that none

of the cited art, singularly or in combination, teaches the invention as recited in new claims 10-22.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Extra Claim Sheet
Petition for Extension of Time